

GD-066-PHS-EMS: Drug Profile for EMT-B Administration of Aspirin

This is the Arizona Department of Health Services' recommendation for the use of this drug by an EMT-Basic in the prehospital setting.

GENERIC NAME: **ACETYLSALICYLIC ACID, ASPIRIN, ASA**

CLASS: analgesic; antipyretic; anti-inflammatory

Mechanism of Action:

In small doses aspirin blocks thromboxane A₂, a potent platelet aggregant and vasoconstrictor.

This property has led to its use in the acute phase of management of the myocardial infarction.

Decreased platelet aggregation.

Indications and Field Use:

Chest pain or other signs/symptoms suggestive of acute myocardial infarction

Contraindications:

Bleeding ulcer, hemorrhagic states, hemophilia

Known hypersensitivity to salicylates or other non-steroidal anti-inflammatories that has led to hypotension and/or bronchospasm

Children and adolescents (prehospital personnel should not administer ASA to this age group)

Adverse Reactions:

Use with caution in the patient with history of asthma. Anaphylactic reactions in sensitive patients have occurred; skin eruptions

Other side effects rare with single dose

NOTES ON ADMINISTRATION

Incompatibilities/Drug Interactions:

Not applicable with single dose therapy

Adult Dosage:

Cardiac: 160-325 mg (2-4 81 mg tabs), chew or swallow

Pediatric Dosage:

Not recommended for prehospital use in children

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Routes of Administration:

Oral

Onset of Action:

20-30 minutes

Peak Effects:

2 hours

Duration of Action:

4-6 hours

Dosage Forms/Packaging:

81-325 mg tablet individually packaged

Recommended Arizona Drug Box Minimum Supply:

324 mg

Special Notes:

- > ASA is heat and light sensitive. The odor of acetic acid (vinegar-like smell) indicates degradation of product